

mulch for landscapers, and sawdust for alternative fuel use. The company employs about 80 to 100 workers and has an extensive sawmill and dry kiln operation. Ronny Dempsey started the company in 1988 and has spent all of his life around the lumber industry. His father, Charles Parker Dempsey, worked in various sawmills over the course of his career and eventually was the co-owner of a sawmill that he later sold. Today Parker Dempsey, a third-generation sawmill operator, has taken over as president, though his father, Ronny, is still by his side as vice president of the company.

This family-owned small business has already benefitted greatly from the tax law that was passed last year. They have announced plans to upgrade their sawmill, purchase a new dry kiln, and invest in a new planer mill over the next 5 years. They expect the capital expenditure to total \$7 million and estimate that they could add a second shift in the near future, thereby creating new jobs in the Orangeburg community. These investments were viable for the company due to the accelerated depreciation provisions contained in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This section of the law allows companies to deduct the value of any new equipment purchased in a single year, instead of over several years. Tax reform has had a material impact on small businesses like Dempsey Wood Products and their employees. Overall, the new law has increased small businesses' confidence, employee bonuses and wages, while lowering taxes and spurring new capital investment.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALAN L. GUNN

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today, Senator CRAPO and I recognize and congratulate Mr. Alan L. Gunn on his upcoming retirement from the U.S. Department of Energy after more than 40 years of distinguished service in various roles at the U.S. Navy and U.S. Department of Energy.

In 1980, Mr. Gunn received a bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University and went on to complete graduate work in business administration at Louisiana State University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, State University of New York at Albany, and Idaho State University.

In February 1982, Mr. Gunn completed the Navy officer candidate school as a distinguished military graduate and was commissioned as a Navy officer. He was selected for duty in the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program and served as both a member of the staff of the Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion program in Washington, DC, and as a field representative for the director in Schenectady, NY, and Idaho Falls, ID.

In 1996, Mr. Gunn completed the College of Naval Warfare program in residence at the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI, and received a master of arts degree in national security and strategic studies.

Since the completion of his Active-Duty service, Mr. Gunn has served as a civilian with the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration in numerous leadership and management positions with the Office of Naval Reactors in Washington, DC, the Idaho branch office of Naval Reactors, the Naval Reactors Laboratory field office, and the Idaho operations office.

In 2007, after completing over 28 years of Active and Reserve military service, Mr. Gunn retired as a captain in the U.S. Navy.

Most recently, Mr. Gunn served as the principal deputy manager for Nuclear Energy and served as the assistant manager for programs and facilities at the Department of Energy's Idaho Operations Office, DOE-ID. In his current capacity, he provides exceptional leadership for DOE-ID's nuclear programs and Idaho facilities management divisions, national security programs, the Radiological and Environmental Science Laboratory, and the Office of Project Management project.

Mr. Gunn's organization is responsible for oversight of the Idaho National Laboratory, INL, and other contractor performance on nuclear energy, education, national security, and other research and development projects and programs, including strategic partnership projects and the INL laboratory directed research and development programs; as well as facility and infrastructure operations, maintenance, planning, and other activities associated with facility and infrastructure operations at the INL. Mr. Gunn also provides direct support to the specific manufacturing capability, SMC, project that includes the oversight of the maintenance and operations of the SMC facilities, as well as the programmatic oversight of the armor production.

Through his years of dedicated service, Mr. Gunn exemplifies the best qualities of Idaho. Senator CRAPO and I want to thank Alan for his service and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO DENNIS E. FRYE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a dedicated public servant and proud student of West Virginian and American history, Dennis E. Frye, on the occasion of his retirement from the National Park Service. Innumerable visitors to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park benefited from his wealth of knowledge and notorious performances that brought history to life.

As Dennis tells it, at a young age, he wanted to be either a historian or an astronaut. Once he found out that becoming an astronaut entails being very good at math, he decided history was the way to go. He studied at what was then Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, WV, while volunteering at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, becoming a park ranger

in 1977. Eschewing the traditional route of advancement in the National Park Service through moving from park to park, Dennis stayed put and advanced within the park, and set about the task of changing perceptions of Harpers Ferry in the Civil War history community.

As staff historian and later chief historian at the park and through his work in various historical societies concerned with the Civil War, Dennis emphasized the importance of Harpers Ferry to the history of the Civil War. Thanks, in large part, to his efforts, the Battle of Harpers Ferry and the importance of the town in the history of America are better recognized by the historical community, of which he is a vocal member. Indeed, Dennis's dedication to his passion as an advocate and student of history is apparent from the 10-year sabbatical he took to focus on writing historical works and to serve as president of the Civil War Trust, an organization dedicated to the preservation of Civil War battlefields. He is also a recipient of the Shelby Foote Award from the Civil War Trust, the National Park Service's Freeman Tilden Award for excellence in interpretation and education, and the Nevins-Freeman Award for outstanding contributions to the study of the Civil War.

Dennis later returned as chief historian of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, where his work of inspiring and educating visitors, including my staff and myself, through meticulous detail and dramatic performances continued to the present day. If the job of a historian is to both impart knowledge and ensure the lessons of history remain with us, then Dennis Frye is a master in his field.

No one who knows him doubts that Dennis E. Frye will continue to be a forceful advocate for his passions in retirement, which includes being an ardent fan of the Boston Red Sox. I believe I speak for many when I say that I sincerely appreciate his public service and the contributions he has made to a better understanding of the history of West Virginia and America. I am proud to call him a friend, and I wish him well in his future pursuits.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO ROCKY BARKER

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Rocky Barker for his extensive career as an Idaho journalist.

Rocky is retiring from the Idaho Statesman where he worked as an environmental reporter-blogger-columnist for the past 22 years. Prior to his position at the Statesman, Rocky was a columnist and correspondent-at-large for the Post Register in Idaho Falls. He has also written and contributed to numerous books, created an Idaho news website, and received many awards and recognitions for his reporting.

Over his more than 30-year career, Rocky has reported comprehensively